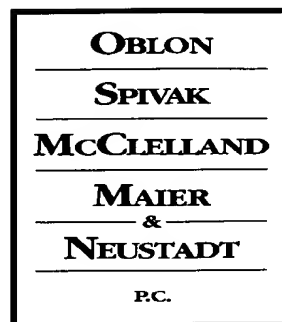




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Docket No.: 213252US0PCT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

Norman F. Oblon  
(703) 413-3000  
noblon@oblon.com

Harris A. Pitlick  
(703) 413-3000  
hpitlick@oblon.com

RE: Application Serial No.: 09/926,100  
Applicants: Bruno PROVOT, et al.  
Filing Date: September 28, 2001  
For: NEUTRON ABSORBENT MATERIAL  
CONTAINING BORON CARBIDE AND HAFNIUM,  
AND PROCESS FOR MANUFACTURING THIS  
MATERIAL  
Group Art Unit: 1731  
Examiner: C. Fiorilla

SIR:

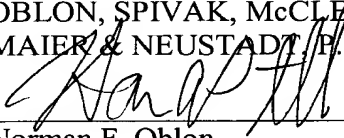
Attached hereto for filing are the following papers:

**AMENDMENT (CONTAINING NEW ABSTRACT)**

Our check in the amount of \$0.00 is attached covering any required fees. In the event any variance exists between the amount enclosed and the Patent Office charges for filing the above-noted documents, including any fees required under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for any necessary Extension of Time to make the filing of the attached documents timely, please charge or credit the difference to our Deposit Account No. 15-0030. Further, if these papers are not considered timely filed, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 for the necessary extension of time. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
Norman F. Oblon

Registration No. 24,618



22850

(703) 413-3000 (phone)  
(703) 413-2220 (fax)

Harris A. Pitlick  
Registration No. 38,779

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :  
BRUNO PROVOT ET AL : EXAMINER: FIORILLA, C.  
SERIAL NO: 09/926,100 :  
FILED: SEPTEMBER 28, 2001 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1731  
FOR: NEUTRON ABSORBER MATERIAL  
BASED ON BORON CARBIDE  
AND HAFNIUM AND METHOD  
FOR MAKING SAME

GB/KW  
12/23/02

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Responsive to the Office Action dated October 2, 2002, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) Process for manufacturing a neutron absorbent material, said material being a composite material containing boron carbide and hafnium, comprising the following steps:

- adding hafnium powder to a powder of boron carbide,

B